

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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5:59 P M

FROM: QUITO

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TO: Secretary of State

NO: 110, AUGUST 18, 2 P M

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PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 110, INFORMATION GUAYAQUIL UNNUMBERED,
LIMA 25, BUENOS AIRES 9, RIO DE JANEIRO 8, SANTIAGO 12

FONMIN NEFTALI PONCE REACTED STRONGLY YESTERDAY TO ACTION OF PERUVIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES OF AUG 17 IN PASSING MOTION ASKING PERUVIAN FONMIN TO PROCEED UNILATERALLY WITH DEMARCATION OF PERUVIAN-ECUADOREAN BORDER AS DISPUTED ZONE. HERewith TEXT OF PONCE STATEMENT: "THE UNILATERAL DEMARCATION WHICH THE PERUVIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES ATTEMPTS WOULD BE A CLEAR CONTRADICTION SINCE BY ITS VERY NATURE DEMARCATION SHOULD BE A JOINT ACTION OF BOTH PARTIES, AND HENCE SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION IS ILLEGAL. AND THE CONTRADICTION IS SO MUCH GREATER BECAUSE, ASIDE FROM THE GRAVE CAUSES FOR THE INVALIDITY (OF THE TREATY) WHICH ECUADOR ASSERTS, THIS ACTION ATTEMPTS TO DEMARCAT A ZONE IN WHICH THE PROTOCOL IS IN EFFECT INAPPLICABLE BY REASON OF A BASIC GEOGRAPHIC ERROR ARISING FROM THE LACK OF A DIVIDE BETWEEN THE ZAMORA AND SANTIAGO RIVERS, THEREBY RENDERING THE BORDER IN THIS REGION NON-EXISTENT. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THE DEMARCATION HAS BEEN HELD UP SINCE 1948. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED FOR FIFTEEN YEARS." END PONCE STATEMENT.

GEOGRAPHIC ERROR REFERS TO THAT PORTION OF RIO PROTOCOL REQUIRING THAT BORDER SHALL FOL DRAINAGE DIVIDE BETWEEN ZAMORA AND SANTIAGO RIVERS. ZAMORA AND SANTIAGO RIVERS ARE ACTUALLY ONE RIVER WHICH RUNS NORTH THEN EAST THEN SOUTH. NORTHERN LEG REFERRED TO AS ZAMORA WHILE SOUTHERN LEG CALLED SANTIAGO. HOWEVER CONTRADICTION IS SEMANTIC RATHER THAN GEOGRAPHIC, SINCE SOME STREAMS DRAIN INTO

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-2-, 110, AUGUST 18, 2 P M, FROM QUITO

NORTHERN LEG AND OTHERS INTO SOUTHERN LEG, AND HENCE A DIVIDE DOES EXIST.

RIGHTIST GROUP ARNE ALSO REACTED STRONGLY TO ACTION PERUVIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, SENDING LETTER TO JUNTA ASSERTING NULLITY OF RIO PROTOCOL SINCE IT WAS IMPOSED BY FORCE, AND ALSO NOTING ALLEGED GEOGRAPHIC ERROR. ARNE ASKED PERMISSION TO HOLD MASS MEETING IN QUITO TO PROTEST PERUVIAN ATTITUDE.

SHOULD PERUVIAN PRESSURE CONTINUE IT IS POSSIBLE GOE MAY BE FORCED TO PROGRESSIVELY MORE EXTREME POSITION, PERHAPS RETURNING TO DOCTRINE OF NULLITY OF PROTOCOL WHICH WAS ABANDONED AFTER AROSEMENA'S OVERTHROW.

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